

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

***In the Specification***

Page 1, the paragraph beginning on line 9 is amended as follows:

A1  
However, the standing gathers of conventional absorbent articles do not always feel comfortable to a wearer, rather feeling stiff or providing poor cushioning properties. The feel of standing gathers could be improved by, for example, adjusting the number of the elastic members to be disposed or extensibility of the elastic members. It is difficult nevertheless to achieve desired improvement without impairing the merits of a planar contact, such as a good fit and leakproofness. In addition, conventional elastically extensible portions tend to fail to keep their planar shape stably. They are liable to bunch up or contract in an undesired direction while in use, ~~resulting in a failure of obtaining~~ so that improvements in fit and leakproofness are not obtained.

Page 2, the paragraph beginning on line 28 is amended as follows:

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of Fig. 1, taken along line X-X II-II;

A2  
[Page 2, the paragraph beginning on line 29 is amended as follows:]

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of Fig. 1, taken along line Y-Y

III-III;

Page 3, the paragraph beginning on line 2 is amended as follows:

A3

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view of Fig. 5, taken along ~~Z-Z~~ VI-VI line;

Page 5, the paragraph beginning on line 14, is amended as follows:

A' C1  
The elastic members 45 are also bonded discretely with the folded parts of the sections 44b in the same manner as bonded to the middle section 44a. As a result, the elastically extensible portion 40 also has on its reverse side (the side not brought into contact with the wearer's skin) a large number of hollow ridges 47 (having an empty space 46) which are parallel to each other at certain intervals and across the elastically extensible portion 40. The ridges 43 on the wearer's skin contact side 4a and the ridges 47 on the opposite side 4b are symmetrical about the plane having the elastic members 45.

Page 12, the paragraph beginning on line 19, is amended as follows:

A5  
The absorbent articles according to the present invention are not limited to the above-described embodiments, and various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. For example, the present invention is applicable to adult incontinence pads, panty liners, ~~disposable diapers~~, and the like as well as sanitary napkins.

Page 17, delete the paragraph beginning on line 17 in its entirety.

Appl. No. 10/056,485

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Replace the Abstract of the Disclosure currently of record with the attached new Abstract of the Disclosure.